(d) It has been proposed to raise/ mobilise additional funds to meet the deficit in the resources to finance the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project in the wake of Government of India's decision not to seek further disbursements for the balance amount of the loan assistance from the World Bank for the Dam & Power Component of the Project.

Exploitation of women and children

826. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of exploitation of women and children particularly the female children are on the increase ;

(b) what are the details of action plan initiated to combat this menace ;

(c) whether Government have any action plan to make the children economically less burdensome on their poor parents ; and

(d) whether Government propose to reserve seats in Parliament and State Legislatures for women, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT) : (SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI) : (a) There is no statistical evidence to support any conclusion regarding increase in the exploitation of women and children.

(b) Government is implementing a multi-pronged strategy to enable women and children to resist exploitation. This includes the enactment and implementation of various social legislation relating to, for example, Equal Remuneration, Juvenile Justice, Dowry, Sati, Immoral Trafficking, Indecent Representation, Child Marriage etc. A number of schemes are being implemented in this regard like IRDP, DWCRA, STEP, NORAD and Socio-Economic Programme for the Economic empowerment of Women and poor families. Special Focus is being given to increasing the number of female children particularly in School and their retention. The National Literacy Mission aims to empower women by making them literate and aware Government is also implementing special interventions for adolescent girls. A National Plan of Action for Children has been formulated and is under implementation. Government is also implementing the SAARC Decade Plan for the Girl Child. Media interventions have been taken up to project women and children in positive terms in society. Government is organising awareness generation camps. A legal literacy manual has been prepared in 10 volumes for imaparting knowledge of rights and other legal matters to women on laws affecting them and children.

Further, various labour legislations have been enacted which impose obligations on employers vis-a-vis their women workers in regard to wages and certain other conditions of work to protect women and children from exploitation at work. The National Policy of Child Labour focuses on the general development programmes for the benefit of child labour and project based plans of action are being implemented in areas of high concentration of child labour.

An action plan for children under specially difficult circumstances is being implemented which includes legal as well rehabilitative aspects. A Uniform legal framework for juvenile justice has been created in the country under the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 for the care, protection, treatment and development of neglected or delinquent juveniles. Under this, the protection and rehabilitation of children in need, street children and juveniles is being taken up

through child care institutions, orphanages, observation homes, after care homes, etc.

(c) Government is implementing a number of development programmes to make families economically strong so as to make children economically less burdensome on parents. These programmes relate to poverty alleviation programmes like IRDP and DWCRA, STEP, NORAD and Socio-Economic Programme in addition to support services also being provided to parents through creches. A National Credit Fund for Women called Rashtriya Mahila Kosh has been set up recently to assist women in the informal sector. The Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Early Childhood Education Scheme and Schemes of universal elementary education are the programme being implemented in this regard.

(d) No, Sir.

Network of roads in Bastar

827. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the project for constructing a network of roads in the tribal district of Bastar in Madhya Pradesh is held up for the last two years due to the failure of the Central Government to sanction funds under the Tribal Areas Development Programme ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not sanctioning the funds ; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Welfare released an amount of Rs. 4·46 crores to Government of Madhya Pradesh under First Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution during 1990-91. The Ministry has issued No Objection Certificate during 1990-91 for utilising Rs. 1·11 Crores out of Rs. 4·46 crores for construction of culverts and bridges on the roads in the area of Bastar District.

(b) Government of Madhya Pradesh requested to release an additional amout of Rs. 14·00 crores out of additional Special Central Assistance during 1992-93 and each of subsequent years upto 1997 over and above its entitlement for Special Central Assistance. The Ministry had asked State Government to furnish utilisation Certificate and progress report in respect of funds released during 1990-91. In the absence of such reports, it has not been possible to consider further assistance.

(c) Since, the execution of the project is with State Government, this Ministry is not in a position to State the probable date of completion of the project.

Prohibition in A.P.

828. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state what support the Central Government are extending in the endeavour of the A.P. Government in introducing prohibition in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : Although prohibition is a state subject, an amount of Rs. 5 lakhs is being sanctioned to DAVP & Dooradarshan Kendra, Hyderabad for undertaking anti-arrack campaign in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Child beggary

829. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the practice of child-beggary exists around places of religious and historical importance all over the country ; and